



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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March 18, 2020

Good afternoon,

Today we are writing to provide you with an update on our response to the Provincial Health Officer direction to suspend in-class instruction in the B.C. school system. Here in School District No. 58, as in other districts, any decisions we make will take into consideration our top priority, which is the health and safety of our students, staff and community. With that primary priority in mind, our next steps will be:

- putting strategies in place to help support the basic needs of our vulnerable students and families as well as the social-emotional well-being of our general learning community;
- putting measures in place to provide an opportunity for the ongoing learning of all of our students; and
- providing some level of service for children of people who are performing essential services in our community.

It is important to clarify that schools are not closed, but that in-class instruction is suspended. How the priorities above will be operationalized will be determined over the next two to three weeks and will likely evolve as things continue to change.

We will work with community organizations to support the basic needs of our vulnerable students and we will be putting into place the tools needed to provide a level of online learning opportunities as we move forward. The plan for supporting the children of those performing essential services will be developed through further consultation with both the Province and other school districts as we move forward.

We understand that many questions remain and that these are difficult times; however, we want to assure you that we are working to put the necessary measures in place while prioritizing the health and safety of our students, staff and community.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen McNiven
Superintendent of Schools